

Message Text

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SUBJ: LEBANESE NEGOTIATIONS COME TO CAIRO

REF: CAIRO 12297

SUMMARY: CONSIDERABLE PRESS ATTENTION GIVEN TO ARRIVAL IN CAIRO
OF LEBANESE PRIMIN KARAMI AND HIS SCHEDULED MEETING SEPTEMBER 14
WITH PRESIDENT SADAT. WHILE GUMHURIYYA WEIGHS IN WITH FIVE-POINT
EGYPTIAN STANCE ON LEBANESE NEGOTIATIONS, IMAM MUSA SADR IN
CAIRO PRESS CONFERENCE OPINES THAT THERE NO BASIC DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN EGYPT AND SYRIA OVER LEBANON. GEMAYEL AND SALAM EXPECTED
IN CAIRO SEPTEMBER 14 WITH MUFTI OF LEBANON SCHEDULED FOLLOWING
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DAY. GEMAYEL RECEIVES MILD SCOLDING FROM MUSA SABRI IN AKHBAR
AND EGYPTIANS GENERALLY APPEAR HIGHLY PLEASED WITH THEIR

NEW, MORE PROMINENT ROLE IN LEBANESE AFFAIRS. END SUMMARY

1. LOCAL DAILIES SEPTEMBER 14 LARGELY PREOCCUPIED BY ARRIVAL PREVIOUS DAY OF LEBANESE PRIMMIN KARAMI AND HIS FIRST ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRIMIN SALIM. ALTHOUGH DETAILS OF DISCUSSIONS SCANTY, DAILIES INDICATED KARAMI WILL CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH SALIM AND DEPRIM MIN/FONMIN FAHMY SEPTEMBER 14, WHEN HE WILL ALSO BE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT SADAT. PAPERS NOTE THT SADAT MAKING SPECIAL CONCESSION RE KARAMI INTERVIEW AS PRESIDENT HAD PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED HIS DECISION TO SPEND LAST DAYS OF RAMADAN IN SECLUSION.

2. HODA TAWFIQ, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR OF GUMHURIYYA, WRITES THAT GOE STAND DURING UPCOMING LEBANESE NEGOTIATIONS IN CAIRO IS AS FOLLOWS: (A) NO SUPPORT FOR ONE FEUDING FACTION AGAINST ANOTHER; (B) SUITABLEFORMULA MUST BE REACHED SO THAT DIALOUE MAY BEGIN AMONG CONTENDING LEBANESE PARTIES THEMSELVES; (C) GOE OPPOSES ANY PARTITION OR INTERNATIONALIZATION OF LEBANON; (D) EGYPT SUPPORTS EXECUTION OF CAIRO ACCORDS WITH REGARD TO PALESTINIAN IN LEBANON; AND (E) EGYPT SUPPORTS ACTION TO ACHIEVE CONSITTUTIONAL REFORM IN LEBANON AND WILL COOPERATE WITH PRESIDENT- ELECT SARKIS TO FACILITTE ATTAINMENT OF SOLUTION TO LEBANESE CRISIS.

3. AKHBAR CARRIES STATEMENT EXTREMELY CONCILIATORY TOWARD EGYPT BY KARAMI, WHO NOTES THAT ARAB HISTORY INDICATES ARAB WORLD HAS NOT LIVED IN STABILITY EXCEPT WITH ARAB COOPERATION UNDER EGYPT'S LEADERSHIP. KARAMI NOTED THAT EGYPT'S POTENTIALITIES ENABLE HER TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO EVERY PROBLEM THAT CROPS UP IN ANY ARAB COUNTRY. FURTHER, LEBANESE PRIMIN NOTED THAT PRESIDENT SADAT, WHO HAS STRONG PERSONALITY, INSIGHT AND EXPERIENCE, WAS FIRST TO COIN SLONG "HANDS OFF LEBANON", WHICH PROVED TO BE PROPER POLICY ON LEBANON. KARAMI URGED NECESSITY OF HOLDING ARAB SUMMIT TO CONFOUND PARTITION PLANS.

4. DAILIES ALSO CARRY COMMENTS BY LEBANESE SHI'TTE LEADER IMAM MUSA SADR FOLLOWING HIS SEPTEMBER 13 MEETINGS WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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FAHMY. SADR NOTED THAT THERE GOOD POSIBILITY OF SUCCESSFUL EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN COOPERATION IN SETTTLING LEBANESE CRISIS AND THIS EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN COOPERATION IS NECESSARY TO COUNTER "ZIONIST AMBITIONS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON", ESPECIALLY AS ISRAEL COUNTING ON DAMASCUS-CAIRO RIFT TO CONTINUE. SADR NOTED THATHE HAD CONVEYED TO FAHMY SYRIAN VIEWPOINT EXPRESSED DURING HIS RECNT MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT ASAD IN DAMASCUS. SHI'TTE IMAM STRESSED THAT, IN ESSENCE, THERE NO BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SYRIA AND EGYPT OVER LEBANON.

5. DAILIES ALSO NOTED THAT PHALANGIST LEADER GEMAYEL AND FORMER PRIMIN SA'IB SALAM TO ARRIVE SEPTEMBER 14 AND SHAIKH HASAN KHALID, MUFTI OF LEBANON, TO ARRIVE IN ACIRO EITHER SEPTMEBER 15 OR 16. MUSA SABRI IN AKHBAR TREATS ARRIVING PHALANGIST LEADER TO "A WORD TO SHAIKH PIERRE". SABRI NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH GEMAYEL 100 PERCENT LEBANESE AND A CANDID LEADER WHO DOES NOT MINCE HIS WORKDS, IT PITY THAT GEMEYEL AS NOT HEDEED REPEATED EGYPTIAN ENTREATIES TO PRESERVE LEBANON FROM "BLACK DESTINY". SABRI TAKES PAINS TO POINT OUT THAT GEMAYEL NOT A SINISTER FIGURE SUCH AS NLP LEADER GHAMOUN, BUT NOTES SADLY THAT PALANGIST LEADER HAS HAD UNFORTUNATE ROLE ALONG SIDE CHAMOUN IN PROLONGING AND EXACERBATING LEGANESE STRIFE. SABRI HOPESTHAT GEMAYEL, WITH HIS " OUTSTANDIG INFLUENCE AND ABILITIES", WILL AT LAST BEGIN TO HEED EGYPT'S ADVICE AND REALIZE THAT ONLY ISRAELI GAININGFROM LEBANESE IMBROGLIO.

6. COMMENT: EGYPTIANS ARE CLEARLY ENJOYING CAIRO'S EMERGENCE AS ONE OF THE SITES FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON LEBANON. AHAM, FOR EXAMPLE, NOTES THAT "THIS IS FIRST TIME THAT SUCH WIDESCALE CONTACTS HAVE BEEN HELD BY LEBANESE LEADERS IN CAIRO, IN A MANNER WHCH HAS NOT TAKEN PLACE BEFORE, NOT EVEN IN LEBANON ITSELF OR ANY OTHER ARAB CAPITAL. " EGYPTIAN PRESS APPEARS OPTIMISTIC RE CHANCES FOR LEBANESE SETTLEMENT AND AHAM WEIGHS IN WITHSELF-CONGRATULATORY EDITORIAL NOTING THAT EGYPT HAS NEVER ABANDONED LEBANON AND STATING THAT IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT LEBANESE LEADERS SHOULD COME TO CAIRO, GIVEN THEIR FULL REALIZATION OF SINCERITY OF CAIRO'S INTENTIONS. LEBANESE LEADERS, CONCLUDES AHAM, ALSO REALIZE THAT NO COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION CAN BE REACHED WITHOUT EGYPT'S ADVICE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF EGYPT'S POLITICAL WEIGHT BUT ALSO BECAUSE TIME HAS PROVED CAIRO'S CORRECT JUDGEMENT. FOR THE NONCE, MOOD IN CAIRO UPBEAT CONCERNING CHANCE OF GOE PLAYING DECISIVE ROLE ON LEBANON BUT LOCAL DAILIES REMAIN DISQUIETINGLY SILENT CONCERNING ATTITUDES OF CHAMOUNISTS, JUMBLATT, PLO AND SARG ITSELF.

7. DESPITE GOE EUPHORIA, STREAM OF LEBANESE VISITORS TO CAIRO AT THIS LATE DATE STRIKES US AS SIMILAR TO EARLIER PLO TURNING TOWARD EGYPT, IN ATTEMPT AVOID CAPITULATION TO SYRIA (OR AT LEAST APPEARANCE THEREOF). WE ASSUME LEBANESE LEADERS RETAIN THEIR TRADITIONAL AVERSION TO AND FEAR OF SYRIAN DOMINATION. MATTHEWS

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